



# the rescue.

## \_\_\_\_\_stories from Exodus

February 2-

Reflect on Exodus 11 and spend a few minutes writing down your prayer from your reflections.

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February 3-

Read Exodus 12

Have you ever been given a list of instructions, looked at the amount of information, and said, “I just can’t be bothered”? Maybe it was the bookshelf instructions from IKEA with its seemingly endless 8-point type and diagrams. Maybe it was the code of conduct you signed at work.

The thing we are quick to forget is that instructions exist to help us not hinder us. This principle is true in our everyday lives as well as our spiritual lives.

In Exodus 12, God gave Moses and Aaron meticulous instructions for conducting their Passover Feast. The nation of Israel “did just what the Lord had commanded,” and their total obedience led to their freedom from slavery.

Throughout the Bible, God gives us instructions as well — instructions on how to treat others, how to handle our money, how to grow closer to Him, how to worship Him. When we follow God’s instructions, we, too, experience freedom. James 1:25 says, “ whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”

Following Jesus means obeying God’s commands, even when they seem inconvenient, insignificant, outrageous, or scary (1 John 5:3, John 14:15). God is in control of all things at all times, and He works everything for our good (Romans 8:28). We can trust God’s instructions because He wants better for us than we want for ourselves. When we listen to



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God and do what He says, the outcome will always be for our benefit and His Glory, and it will always come in His time.

Reflect:

When you get a long list of instructions, what's the first thing you think? Do you ever find yourself feeling that way when you read the Bible?

Think of a time when you were obedient to God, even when it wasn't what you wanted to do. What's one blessing that came as a result of your obedience?

What next step is God asking you to do today? What, if anything, is holding you back from following the instructions God has given you?

February 4-

Reflect on Exodus 12 and take some time to pray through the next step God may be asking you to take.

February 5-

Read Exodus 13

When it feels like we're wandering aimlessly or stuck in a hopeless situation, promises like "the best is yet to come" can seem applicable to everyone but us. We've all had these days. The ones when we've lost loved ones, when relationships are severed, when our kids seem out of control, or our jobs are too much. It's those days when we're so overwhelmed by what's happening in front of us that hope for tomorrow feels impossible to comprehend.

The Israelites were experiencing this kind of hopelessness after leaving Egypt. They left their homes and everything they knew on a promise God had made to Abraham years ago. They were going after God's best for them, the Promised Land. It wasn't a sure thing, but they were trusting that God's word was good. Although God bypassed the Philistine road and protected Israel from war, the Israelites were still sent to wander the wilderness.



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Experiencing the wilderness was necessary in order for the Israelites to get where God was leading them, but having hope when wandering isn't easy. In Exodus 13, God shows us a practical way to have hope in tough times: Remember His past faithfulness and know that He always makes good on His word. This practice of remembering is the reason God tells Moses to consecrate every firstborn male to Him during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This act would serve as a lasting reminder of the day God brought Israel out of Egypt.

The wilderness seems like a hopeless place, especially when all we have is a promise to hold on to, but the key to having hope is remembering where we've been and holding on to where we're going. God went ahead of the Israelites in the wilderness, and He's going ahead of us, too. There is hope. We just have to remember God is good and He is for us. We are not alone today, and the best really is yet to come.

Reflect:

Where in your past do you see God's provision or protection?

What are one or two promises about God's character you've seen Him prove true in the past?

February 6-

Reflect on Exodus 13 and take a few moments and pray through these prayer points:

1. Thank God that He keeps His promises.
2. Ask God to help you to be obedient to His will and ways.
3. Ask God for help in remembering His faithfulness to you and to help you trust in Him.



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## stories from Exodus

February 7-

Read Exodus 14

Have you ever felt like you were in a war you couldn't win? Maybe your dream job turned out to be miserable. Or your happily ever after was actually a strained marriage. It could be that the child you prayed over for so long made one poor decision after another. There are times in life when we feel helpless to fight the battles we're facing.

In Exodus 14, the Israelites were camped out with the Red Sea ahead of them, the desert behind them, and the Egyptian army closing in. There was nowhere to go and they were powerless against their enemy. But the Israelites didn't have to form a battle plan or even raise a sword because God was their weapon. In Exodus 14:14, Moses tells the people, "The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still."

God didn't just know the struggles the Israelites were facing, He also knew how they would overcome them. So He put the people where they needed to be, where victory would be won. God parted the Red Sea letting the Israelites cross on dry ground. As the Egyptians followed in pursuit, God let the waters go, destroying the entire army. He won the battle for them.

No matter what kind of war you're in, God is your weapon. You are right where He wants you and you have everything you need to win because He is fighting for you.

Reflect

Can you remember a time when you felt like you couldn't do anything to change your circumstances?

How can you see God fighting for you as you look back on that time?

If you're in a battle right now, surrender your will to His and ask Him to guide you to victory!



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February 8-

Reflect on Exodus 14 and take a few moments to write down your own prayer:

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